

NORTH-EAST ASIA

Countries of engagement

China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan, Mongolia and the Republic of Korea.

Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

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Specific mandates of the Human Rights Council

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Commission of Inquiry on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Home to more than 20 per cent of the world's population, North-East Asia consists of China, including the autonomous regions of Hong Kong and Macau, Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), Japan, Mongolia and the Republic of Korea (ROK). It includes countries with very distinct political, social and economic contexts and no overarching regional architecture. Japan and ROK represent highly industrialized countries, China continues to experience significant economic growth and while Mongolia experiences development challenges, it is also experiencing a resource boom. The DPRK remains subject to severe food insecurity and economic hardship. The region remains beset with security concerns and unresolved historical disputes and past human rights violations.

The main human rights issues in the subregion include: countering discrimination, especially against migrants and minorities; combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law while promoting the restriction or abolition of the death penalty; human rights in development and in the economic sphere where local government initiatives provide a good entry point; and widening the democratic space, with a focus on human rights defenders and human rights education. Mongolia and ROK have "A" status national human rights institutions and the initiative to establish one in Japan seems to have stalled. The Human Rights Council maintains a special procedures country mandate on DPRK, which is supported by OHCHR, and in 2013 established a Commission of Inquiry into the human rights situation in the country which will be an important starting point for follow-up.

OHCHR deployed a human rights adviser to Mongolia between 2006-2007 and OHCHR continues to work closely with the United Nations Country Team (UNCT). OHCHR also conducted a technical cooperation programme with China under two successive bilateral Memorandums of Understanding from 1999-2008. Yet, the Office's lack of presence in the subregion remains an impediment for the implementation of such agreements and for closer engagement with all five countries. Additional challenges include knowledge and awareness gaps. In this regard, translation



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The Commission of Inquiry on the DPRK updates the Human Rights Council: "What we have seen and heard so far appears without doubt to demand follow-up action by the world community, and accountability on the part of the DPRK."

is particularly important for outreach to local populations. OHCHR sought to address this issue in part through the launch in May 2011 of the OHCHR Chinese language website which holds more than 2,000 pages covering a wide range of human rights issues (including all news releases since 2013). The Chinese terminology for the United Nations human rights mechanisms used on the website are the authoritative point of reference worldwide.

Thematic priorities

- ▶ Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms with a focus on: submission of reports by States Parties and submission of information by civil society actors to the treaty bodies and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).
- ▶ Integrating human rights in development and the economic sphere with a focus on: the integration of a human rights-based approach in work.
- ▶ Enhancing equality and countering discrimination with a focus on: racial and religious discrimination; migrants; and minorities.
- ▶ Widening the democratic space with a focus on: human rights defenders.
- ▶ Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law with a focus on: death penalty.

OHCHR expected contribution

ALL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL IN NORTH-EAST ASIA	
RIGHTS-HOLDERS	DUTY-BEARERS
<p>[EA5] ▶ Women, youth and civil society networks engaging in the promotion and protection of human rights.</p>	<p>[EA1] ▶ Increased number of States that have abolished the death penalty and/or pending abolition, increasingly comply with relevant international human rights norms and standards.</p>
<p>[EA7] ▶ Increased number and diversity of rights-holders, and of national human rights institution and civil society actors acting on their behalf, engaging with the treaty bodies and the Universal Periodic Review.</p>	<p>[EA6] ▶ Reports to treaty bodies and the UPR submitted on time and in accordance with relevant guidelines.</p>
<p>[EA10] ▶ Increased integration of human rights of migrants in relevant regional processes.</p> <p>▶ Increased responsiveness of the international community in ensuring accountability for gross human rights violations.</p>	
<p>[EA11] ▶ Implementation by UNCTs of the Guidance Note of the Secretary-General on Racial Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and the UN Indigenous Peoples' Partnership Initiative.</p> <p>▶ Increased incorporation of human rights rights-based approaches in UN programmes.</p>	

By 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to the achievement of the results outlined on the table above, in support of national efforts in the different thematic priority areas (colour scheme). OHCHR will pursue these behavioural, institutional and legislative changes in cooperation with relevant partners, using the different strategic tools at its disposal – monitoring and reporting, capacity-building and advisory services, advocacy and awareness-raising (see chapter one) – on the basis of an assessment of the specific context. It is expected that if achieved, these results will contribute to improving the duty-bearers' compliance with their international human rights obligations and to the rights-holders' ability to claim their rights, and thereby to the enjoyment of all rights for all in the region.